

**REMARKS**

Claims 12-21 are pending in this application. Claims 12-21 are allowed. By this Amendment, claims 12, 13, 20 and 21 are amended only to correct informalities, and claims 1-11 (including withdrawn claims 1-7) are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

**I. Allowed Claims**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 12-21 are allowed. Because withdrawn claims 1-7 and rejected claims 8-11 are canceled, this application is in condition for allowance.

**II. Rejection of Claims 8-11**

The Office Action rejects claims 8-11<sup>1</sup> under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Izumitani et al. (Izumitani), U.S. Patent No. 6,533,418. The rejection of canceled claims 8-11 is moot.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 12-21 are earnestly solicited.

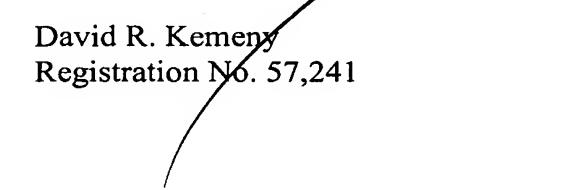
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<sup>1</sup> The Office Action's indication on page 3 that claims 14 and 15, which depend from allowed claim 12, are rejected over Izumitani appears to be a typographical error.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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